(b) Whether the above orders are not being followed in the private sector as well as in Government Undertakings like nationalised bank and Indian Oil Corporation which is causing great hardship to the consumers in the context of shortage of small coins which are not in circulation; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take for the implementation of the above orders in all sectors of trade and commerce.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have issued instructions regarding rounding of the payment and receipts arising out of Government transactions to the nearest rupee These instructions apply to the payment of salary, deductions from salaries and all claims on Government by utility institutions like Electricity Boards/Corporations etc. These instructions have not been extended to the private sector or the public sector undertakings. No proposal regarding issue of such instructions to these authorities is under consideration of the Government.

Development of a Free Port in the Country

3860. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision regarding the development of a free port in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Steel Scrap from USSR

3861. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA :

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH :

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given permission or propose to give permission the import of larger tonnage of steel from the USSR and other countries;

(b) if so, whether these steel scraps will be imported against rupee payment and if not, what will be the arrangements with the countries from which these scraps will be imported; and

(c) what are the reasons for such large scale imports when steel scraps are available in abudance in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government have allowed import of scrap by MSTC from USSR and other countries. The quantum of imports will be determined by total demand, indigenous scrap availability and the allocation of foreign exchange. A portion of the imports from USSR, amounting to approximately 0.5 million tonnes, will be imported against Rupee Payment. The balance would be imported from other countries.

(c) Metal scrap available in the country is not adequate to meet our requirements.